

Terms and Definitions

Active Employment Services Caseload A RSS or TAP client is regularly and directly involved in planned employment activities based on the ONS-CRP and other Employment Service activities such as employment counseling, job club, job development, job upgrade, job search, and follow-up.

A client who meets any one of the criteria listed is considered to be an active employment services participant. A client would not be considered active in employment services when the client's primary activity is enrollment in vocational training, ESL training, or OJT.

Anchor Relative means the spouse, the parent of an unmarried child under 21, or the child -- of a person (i) admitted to the U.S. as a refugee or granted asylum, or (ii) a person who is a lawful permanent residents of the U. S. and was initially admitted to the U.S. as refugees or granted asylum.

Alien Any person who is not a citizen or a national of the U.S.

Asylum Protected status given to non-citizens who are in the U.S. or at a border who demonstrate that they qualify under the refugee definition. A person granted asylum is referred to as an "asylee," or more generally as a "refugee." Persons holding this status are eligible for refugee services.

Coalition For purposes of this RFP, ONS defines a coalition as: a relationship between two or more agencies with one agency clearly identified as the primary administrative and fiscal agent for the coalition, and characterized by: clearly defined and interrelated roles of each coalition member that delineate division of labor through management and staffing responsibilities; a joint planned approach to service delivery as reflected through the members' organizational structure and roles, administration, staffing, and communication; resources that are pooled, jointly secured, or shared in order to maximize service delivery, such as shared staffing, and co-location of resources.

Comprehensive Resettlement Plan (CRP) A plan required for all refugees receiving services from contract service providers that includes an assessment of the refugee's overall needs, interests and aptitudes, present abilities, previous education, work experiences, language ability and potential barriers to self-sufficiency. In addition, the plan includes service strategies to address needs and overcome barriers to the achievement to self-sufficiency including employment services, English language training, transitional cash and medical assistance, and other support services. Additionally, the CRP includes input from the refugee being served.

Cuban/Haitian Entrant Program A program created by Congress under Title V of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980 that provides federal reimbursement to participating States for cash and medical assistance to Cuban and Haitian entrants under the same conditions and to the same extent as such assistance and services are made available to refugees. Cuban and Haitian nationals who are paroled into the U.S. or subject to exclusion or deportation proceedings, or applicants for asylum, are also considered entrants for the purposes of federal reimbursement.

Family Access to Medical Insurance Security Plan (FAMIS) The new health care program in Virginia that has replaced the Children's Medical Security Insurance Plan (CMSIP). Like CMSIP, FAMIS is designed to meet the health care needs of Virginia's uninsured children between the ages of 0 through 18 years, in working families that earn too much to qualify for Medicaid, but not enough to afford private health insurance. Some of the components of FAMIS are: a simplified eligibility process, a new benefits package with cost sharing, employee sponsored health insurance, and a centralized processing site. The Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) administers the program.

Family Reunification Case means a refugee who arrives under the U.S. State Department Priority 3 admissions status. These are individuals who are nationals of specified countries and who are the spouses, unmarried children under 21, or parents of person admitted to the U.S. as refugees or granted asylum, or persons who are lawful permanent residents of U. S. and were initially admitted to the U.S. as refugees or granted asylum.

Family Unit means individual adult, married individuals without children, or parents or custodial relatives, with minor children who live in the same household.

Free Case means a refugee who arrived under a U.S. State Department Priority 1 or Priority 2 admissions status. These are individuals or groups with compelling protection needs or those for whom no other durable solution exists who are identified and referred to the program by UNHCR or a non-governmental organization.

Immigrant An alien who is lawfully granted the privilege of residing permanently in the U.S.

Matching Grant Program This program, funded by Congress since 1979, provides an alternative approach to State-administered resettlement assistance. ORR awards matching grants of up to \$2,000 per refugee to voluntary agencies, which agree to match the ORR grant with equivalent cash and in-kind contributions. The program's goal is to help refugees attain self-sufficiency within four months after arrival, without accessing public cash assistance.

Mutual Assistance Association (MAA) A refugee organization based upon the principle of self-help which is incorporated to address the social service needs of the refugee population out of which it evolved and to fill gaps in existing community services for the community it represents. The MAA serves as a bridge in promoting successful resettlement and acculturation in the American community. The composition of the organization or governing board is comprised of not less than 51% refugees or former refugees and includes both refugee men and women.

Non-citizen Any person who is not a citizen of the U.S., regardless of his/her specific immigration status.

Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) The agency within the federal Department of Health and Human Services responsible for refugee resettlement services throughout the United States. It is the source of the 100 percent federal funding to states for the Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA), Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), Refugee Social Services (RSS), Matching Grant, Targeted Assistance, and Discretionary Grant programs.

Parolee An alien, appearing to be inadmissible to the inspecting officer, allowed into the United States for urgent humanitarian reasons or when that alien's entry is determined to be for significant public benefit. Parole does not constitute a formal admission to the United States and confers temporary status only, requiring parolees to leave when the conditions supporting their parole cease to exist (though some parolees may petition for and receive permanent resident status when a visa becomes available). For the purposes of the Refugee Resettlement Program, this usually refers to a Haitian or Cuban who has been paroled into the United States and/or granted parole status as a Cuban/Haitian Entrant.

Partnership A relationship between two or more organizations that demonstrates evidence of on-going and coordinated cooperation through reciprocal arrangements such as shared staffing and planning to maximize and/or share resources and to avoid duplication of services. Acceptable evidence are memoranda of understanding, service agreements, letters of support, and shared activities such as joint training.

Public assistance is the provision of cash assistance and/or medical assistance by a local department of social services to a person or family who applies for and is found eligible to receive such assistance. For purposes of determining that a refugee individual or family has been removed from public assistance, the term will also include food stamps, Aid to Families with Dependent Children and Medicaid.

Purchasing agent is the Virginia Office of Newcomer Services, Virginia Department of Social Services agency.

Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) Special cash assistance for needy refugees who do not qualify for cash assistance under the TANF or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs. Refugee individuals or families must meet the income and resource eligibility standards applied to the TANF program. Currently RCA provides cash payments for a maximum of 8 months. The full cost of the RCA program is paid from federal funds.

Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA) Special medical assistance for needy refugees who do not qualify for Medicaid. Refugees who are eligible for RCA are also eligible for RMA. This assistance is provided in the same manner as Medicaid, but the federal government provides all funds. Program eligibility is restricted by a time limitation, which depends on the availability of appropriated funds. Refugees not receiving RCA may be eligible for RMA if their income is slightly above that required for cash assistance eligibility and if they incur medical expenses which bring their net income down to the Medicaid eligibility level.

Refugee Social Services (RSS) Services provided to refugees in order to assist in general adjustment and especially to promote rapid achievement of self-sufficiency. Priority services include English language training, employment counseling, job placement and vocational training. Other services include orientation, translation, social adjustment, transportation, and day care.

Secondary Migrant A refugee or entrant who moves into Virginia after initial resettlement in another state in the U.S.

Self-sufficiency A client is no longer receiving public assistance.

Service Contract Provider An agency or organization under contract with VDSS to provide specified services to refugees/entrants.

State Refugee Coordinator means the individual designated by the Governor or the appropriate legislative authority of the State to be responsible for, and who is authorized to, ensure coordination of public and private resources in refugee resettlement.

Targeted Assistance Program (TAP) This program funds employment and other services for refugees and entrants who reside in areas of high need. These areas are defined as counties or contiguous county areas where, because of factors such as unusually large refugee or entrant populations, high refugee or entrant concentrations in relation to the overall population, and high use of public assistance, there exists a need for supplementation of other available service resources to help the local refugee or entrant population obtain employment with less than one year's participation in the program.

Unaccompanied Minor A refugee/entrant child who arrives in the U.S. unaccompanied by a parent or other close adult relative and who will require foster care. The child is eligible to receive culturally and linguistically appropriate child welfare services.

Undocumented Alien (Illegal alien) A non-citizen residing in the U.S. who has violated his/her immigration status. The violation may be the result of an unauthorized entry into the U.S. or of behavior occurring after entry, such as staying beyond the authorized period, engaging in authorized employment or violating other provisions of the immigration laws.

Victim of Severe People Trafficking An individual who has received a letter of certification under the terms of the Victims of Severe Trafficking Act of 2000, and who is therefore eligible for services available to refugees for a period not to exceed 8 months.

Virginia Newcomer Information System (VNIS) A computer database that captures information (demographic, public assistance benefits, employment activities, support services, and training) on each refugee receiving services. The data collected is used to prepare required federal reports, assist the Office of Newcomer Services in the supervision and monitoring of contractors, and evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

Virginia Refugee Resettlement Program (VRRP) The term used to refer to the overall program of refugee services available in Virginia: cash and medical assistance, social services, TAP, and discretionary grants.

Voluntary Agency (VOLAG) One of the 10 national non-profit organizations (voluntary agencies) that enter into a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration of the Department of State to provide basic reception and placement services to refugees/entrants.

Voluntary Agency Affiliate A local branch of the national voluntary agency, which implements the provisions of the cooperative agreement within an established area.